(viii) A Conference of State Population Commissions was organized where a detailed review of the implementation of the State Population Policies were undertaken. This has given an opportunity for sharing the experiences of better performing States *viz. a viz.* States which are witnessing high population growth now.

(c) The National Population Policy was finalized and published by the Government in the year 2000.

Creation of Employment Opportunities

1007. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister in his Independent Day speech assured of creating more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government have contemplated any specific strategy/scheme to generate more jobs; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister announced to the Nation that the Government is committed to create 10 crore employment opportunities over a period of ten years. Planning Commission constituted a Special Group on "Targeting 10 million Employment Opportunities Per Year" under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member (Labour, Employment & Manpower), Planning Commission. The Special Group submitted its report in May 2002, wherein it has identified sectors and sub-sectors in the economy, which could be given more stress to generate additional employment over and above the employment generated from the growth process. The schemes identified include labour intensive sectors like agriculture, watershed development, on farm water management, small and medium industries, information technology, education and health services.